

ANNEX I  
FIRE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE

The State Fire Commission is the state focal point for fire services, including fire prevention, fire suppression and life-saving services necessary for the protection of lives and property in all communities in West Virginia. The West Virginia Division of Forestry is the focal point for forest and woodland fires.

Part One of this Annex outlines the role of the State Fire Marshal as the operating division of the State Fire Commission.

Part Two of this Annex outlines the role of the State Forester as the operating division of Forestry.

PART ONE. STATE FIRE COMMISSION

B. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:

Fire Services will be provided initially by local authorities. State and federal agencies will then provide assistance and support to the initial responding authority. Manpower and equipment will be provided through these local authorities. Technical expertise and specialized equipment to be provided by state and federal agencies. Coordination of fire and rescue efforts will be made by State Fire Commission on request of local authority and/or direction of the Governor.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Fire services are provided by local entities as are rescue and recovery capabilities.
2. Mutual aid agreements between local entities are in place based on jurisdictional lines and/or proximity of localities.
3. The State Fire Commission, through the State Fire Marshal, provides local, on scene, fire services coordinators, as well as technical assistance.

D. TASK ASSIGNMENTS:

1. State Fire Commission (through the Office of the State Fire Marshal) provides:
  - a. State Fire Coordinator at State EOC
  - b. Local Fire Coordinators at scene

- c. Communications (State)
  - d. Analysis of:
    - (1) fire loss
    - (2) structural damage
    - (3) fire protection
    - (4) electrical systems
    - (5) flammable material
    - (6) explosive/hazardous material identification
  - e. Condemnation Authority
2. Federal Agencies Will Provide:
- a. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – liaison and coordination of all federal response agencies and equipment.
  - b. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – technical and laboratory services and hazardous material identification and disposal.
  - c. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) – identification and investigation of incidents involving explosives.

## PART TWO. WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF FORESTRY

### E. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

This Annex deals with the protection of all public and private forest lands from fire for which primary responsibility is assigned to the West Virginia Division of Forestry.

### F. TASK ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>TASK</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE AGENCY OR AGENCIES</u>
1. Detection and Evaluation	Division of Forestry
2. Equipment Procurement	Division of Forestry
3. Recruitment	Division of Forestry, National Guard Firefighting Teams
4. Investigation and Prosecution	Division of Forestry, Law Enforcement (DNR), State Fire Marshal's Office and State Police
5. Transportation	Division of Forestry
6. Safety and First Aid Training	American Red Cross
7. Traffic Control	WV State Police

<u>TASK</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE AGENCY OR AGENCIES</u>
8. Food Preparation and Distribution to Firefighters	American Red Cross
9. Record Keeping and Payrolls	Division of Forestry

In the event that conditions deteriorate to the point that additional support is required, the Division of Forestry will request the services and equipment of the National Guard through the WV Office of Emergency Services.

#### G. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

1. PL 93-288, Section 417, authorizes the President to provide assistance, including grants, equipment, supplies and personnel, to any State for the suppression of any fire on privately or publicly owned forest or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.
2. The Governor or his designated representative (the State Forester) makes the determination that fire suppression assistance is warranted, and his request will specify in detail the facts supporting such a request. The request is submitted to FEMA Region III, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, through the Director, WV OES.

#### H. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES:

1. West Virginia Code, Chapter 20
2. West Virginia Code, Chapter 29, Article 3A
3. West Virginia Code, Chapter 29, Article 3
4. West Virginia State Fire Marshal Disaster Management Plan
5. Public Law 93-288, Section 417
6. Rural Development Act of 1972 – Title IV